

Raju Parulekar

Author, political analyst and columnist



Loss of rural wisdom

WISDOM means knowingness - wisdom is egoless. A man or society either has wisdom or it doesn't. It's like being pregnant - either you are or you ain't. The entire Anna movement is based on the hypothesis that Anna himself is a man of wisdom. Here, we should understand that his knowingness has nothing to do with knowledge or qualification. The hypothesis of his knowingness is about the society and more precisely, a deprived part of the society. His entire life is an example of sacrifice. At least prima facie the whole of India has accepted it. The Anna movement began with the ambition to create an iconic mega model for pan-India called Anna. The ambition was the ambition of the self-proclaimed Team Anna. Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodiya, the Bhushans and Kiran Bedi want to hide their human weaknesses behind the hypothetical wisdom and propaganda-created iconic figure called Anna.

Here, the first litmus test of wisdom was of Annaji himself, which he failed. He added a superhuman ego to his sacrifice, and tried to thrust his ego on the nation. Actually, fasting is a path towards purity when it is Gandhian, but according to Anna's 'wisdom', fasting is an instrument to compel others to bow down. This is not the path of Gandhian wisdom, but actually cynic sadism. Team Anna enjoyed privileg-



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es of the power of the people, which stems through this sadism, and Anna himself gained same power and recognition all over the world as a 'second Gandhi'. But the problem is whether this instrument is useful to solve real problems or just create hype and a sort of mania among media and people.

The whole movement started from Jantar Mantar, reached its climax at Ramlila Maidan and Tihar, and then fell in Mumbai. Throughout the agitation, Anna spoke time and again about his 'sacrifice for the nation', how he narrowly escaped death in the war, how he thought about committing suicide and then he read Vivekanand and decided not to marry but sacrifice his life in the service of the nation, and went on to lead a life that felt like walking on the edge of the sword. This glorification, this exhibitionist manner shows wisdom twisted in itself. This is absolutely egoism of a totally different kind. Generally, we Indians are impulsive and emotional - we get carried away by this kind of subtle but exhibitionist ego. The real meaning of sacrifice lies in forgetting sacrifice itself. The moment you make a sacrifice, you should forget it at that very moment.

Though people are ready to follow Anna, he has lost his control of them, as also with his wisdom-oriented grief over Team Anna. Anna became a brand and his team became the ruler of Brand Anna, through which they gained money and power; both poles understand and know the weaknesses of each other, but want to exploit people. This is only possible when (brand) Anna and his (self-proclaimed) team hide each other's weaknesses and present themselves with singleness of purpose and as a symbol of sacrifice. This has created the deadly cocktail of egoism, sadism, opportunism, autocracy, loss of wisdom and ultimately decline.

I still think of Anna and his movement, with which I worked closely. What attracts me most towards this man I think is that, behind closed doors, Anna as a person is a man of rural wisdom. In fact, he used to pose to me his queries about history, contemporary world and technology like a small child, but his wisdom seems to disappear when he is with his team. He tried to rectify the team's errors, the initial phase after the Ramlila fast. His letter about restructuring the team was part of that measure. But when he went to Delhi, he suddenly realised that he had to choose between his ego and his rural experience and wisdom. He chose what befitted him - ego, fame and recognition. My parting of ways with Anna was inevitable when he sacked me as his blogger for no reason. Today, I am happy that I was a part of the beginning of an end - the end of the people's movement.

In *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* by Karl Marx, he said that when history repeats itself, the first time it's a tragedy, but the second time it's a farce. This was reflected in JP's movement. So is this movement a repeat of that?

Raju Parulekar was also Anna Hazare's blogger. Reach him @ raju.parulekar@gmail.com